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## Iowa Great Places forum slated for Thursday 108

Area residents can learn about Iowa Great Places during a public forum Thursday from 4:15-6:15 p.m. at the Western Historic Trails Center, 3434 Richard Downing Ave.

Iowa Great Places is an initiative created by Gov. Tom Vilsack that brings 18 state agencies together to partner with local leaders and organizations to make their great ideas about great places become reality.

Thursday's forum is one of 10 being held across the state to outline how the program will work and how the public can become

involved, said Anita Walker, director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

"These forums will be a wonderful opportunity for Iowans to learn more about Great Places and share their visions for Great Places in Iowa," she said.

The idea behind the initiative is to combine state and local expertise and resources to "make great places better," the program's Web site states.

General proposals need to be submitted with an invitation to the Iowa Great Places team by July 1. The team will visit sites around

the state during July and August and help organizations prepare their final proposals.

The state will select three pilot projects by Oct. 1, and final agreements between the state and pilot projects will be made by Dec. 31.

The forums are free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. For more information, visit [www.iowagreatplaces.gov](http://www.iowagreatplaces.gov) or call (515) 281-8824. Persons with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in a forum should contact Jill Fulitan-Avery at (515) 242-6334 or [jill.avery@iowa.gov](mailto:jill.avery@iowa.gov).